HISTORY OF NEGRO
CHURCHES IN SURRY CO,
VIRGINIA

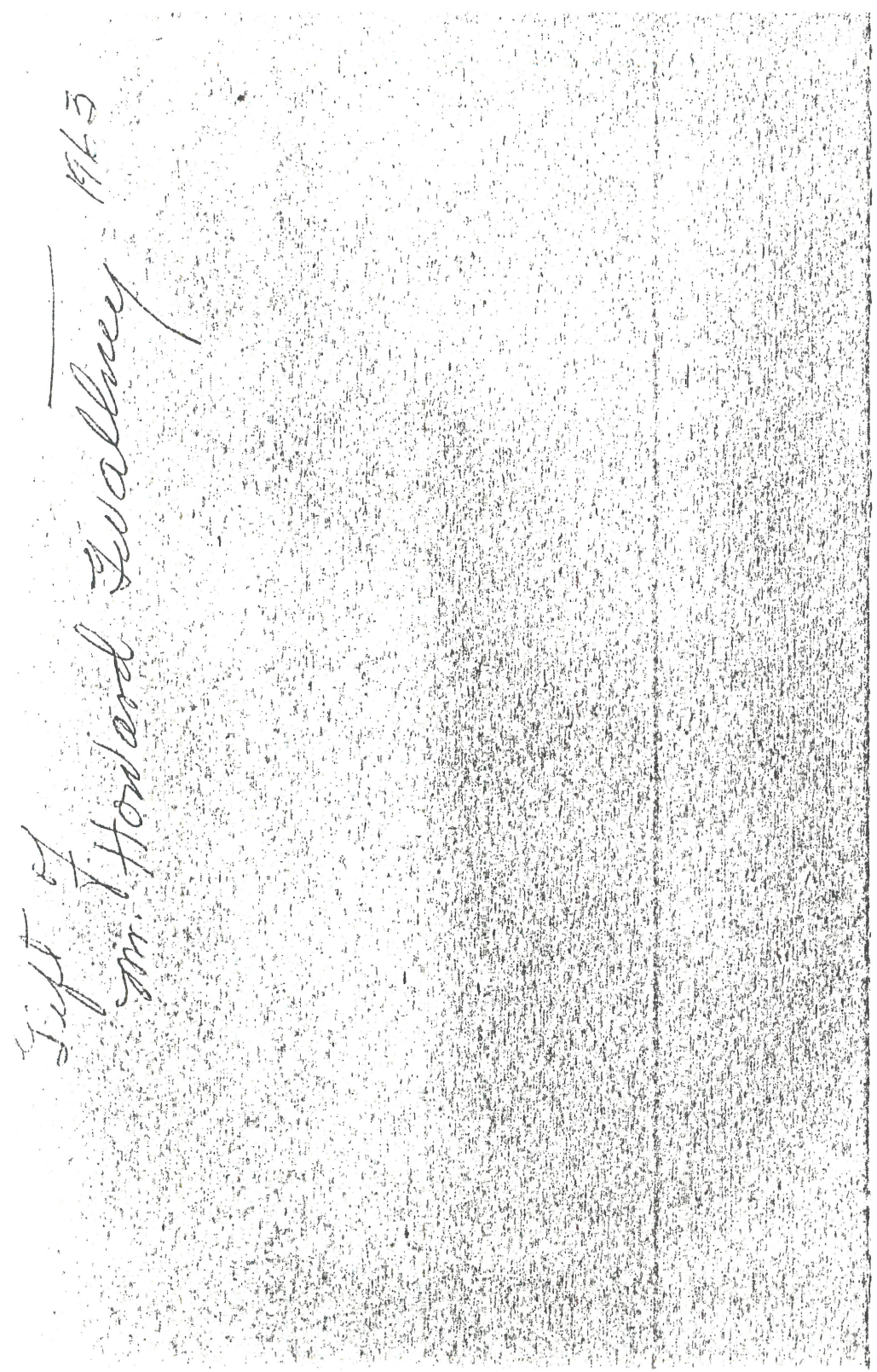
ORIGINAL ON SHELF IN
GENEALOGY ROOM

The History of Negro Churches in Surry County, Virginia

Preface by the

Rev. W. Herbert George

Surry County, Virginia



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PREFACE

Probably the first question that may be asked by any person concerning a new book is "What is its Object?"

The object of this book is to give a brief history of the negro churches in Surry County, Virginia.

The book is attempting to tell how the churches here got their origin, their name, their principal leaders and supporters.

The necessity of the church and its teachings was inspired by the early church leaders here years ago from the bush arbor to the present day church structure.

That sort of leadership constramed the people to do things in the community that needed to be done with as much participation as possible on the part of all the people, at the same time making them willing and happy in getting the work done.

Being divinely inspired, the leaders left a story worth telling.
One has rightly said that "The Bible still has the best rules to live by. "No one has been able to improve on them in 5,000 years."

INTRODUCTION

The most authentic source of information comes from those who are closest to the situation. The same is true of this historical account of the Negro Churches of Surry County, Virginia. Its author, the Reverend W. Herbert George, is a graduate of Hampton Institute who served as farm demonstration agent in Surry County for forty-two years. He is well acquainted with the community life of the people and has been a part of many of its outstanding developments. His work took him into the homes and churches and other public gatherings, which has given him first-hand information concerning the economic, social, civic, and religious life of the people. The Reverend Mr. George is personally acquainted with many people who shared with him information from their personal experiences and from church records and community records. The author knows his readers and how to write to inspire them to become interested in and to appreciate an account of the religious heritage of Surry County, Virginia.

Preston T. Hayes, Minister
Cypress Baptist Church
Elberon, Virginia

APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

OMITTED BY REQUEST

CLARKE'S MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Clarke's Memorial Baptist Church was organized in the home of Preston Bolding on February 14, 190[illegible].

Land for the church was given by a Mr. Clarke and the church was named for him, Clarke's Memorial Baptist Church.

Those who served as trustees at the beginning of the church were: James Albert Overby, Sr., Philip Jones, Hartwell Parker, J. H. Brown and Rev. W. H. Davenport.

The Deacons were: Hartwell Parker, Preston Bolding, Thomas Scott, James Williams, Philip Jones, J. H. Brown, Abraham Fasel, James Albert Overby, Sr., Samuel Hilton, Chas. W McCoy and William Allen.

The following pastors have served the church: Rev. W. H. Davenport, Cape Charles. Rev. James H. Harrison, Elberon, Rev. Eugene Sandford, Bacon's Castle, Rev. Henry Massenburg, Richmond, Rev. H. M. Henderson, Claremont, Rev. R. L. Davis, Surry, Rev. Ernest Johnson, Rev. Samuel Robinson, Acting Pastor and Rev. G. A. Carey who is our pastor at this time.

"I know that my redeemer liveth and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh I shall see God; whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold and not another."

Job. 19-25-26-27

CUFFIES CHAPEL A. M. E. ZION CHURCH

Cuffies Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church began its prayer services on Joseph Byrd Farm in Surry County near Dendron, Virginia, a growing town following a few meetings.

The following men decided to buy land and build a church in the year of 1899. They bought a lot in this town of Dendron, Va. from Jacob Hellominges and it was deeded to the following trustees: Sterling Love, William Spriggs, Fred Easter, and Winfred Land, and with the help of Rev. G. N. Cuffie they began building. The town of Dendron grew and by 1906 we had the corner stone laying. A few years later it became a circuit with Hill, Wakefield.

Pastors serving us were: Revs. G. N. Cuffie, founder and builder, Rev. H. B. Pettigrew, Rev. Conquest, Rev. Spaulding, Rev. J. T. Newly, Rev. Morgan, Rev. Drayker, Rev. Washington, Rev. Alfonso Bowen, Sr., Rev. R. H. Platt, Dr. G. H. Miles, Rev. Alexander, Rev. Giggans. In the later years the Virginia Conference made Cuffies Chapel a station.

Rev. Samuel Hill remodeled the church inside including the help he received from the conference. Other pastors serving Cuffie's Chapel were: Rev. E. I. Wilson, Rev. Robertson, Rev. M. D. Nathan, Rev. E. R. Sprately, Rev. Demey Arrington, and the present pastor, Rev. C. A. Eason.

Our trustees now are: Emmitt Evans, John Judkins, Jasper Judkins, George Stringfield; leaders: Inez Judkins, Annie Stringfield, Pauline Halem.

Presiding elders who have served us are: Dr. R. E. Gregory, Dr. Alexander, Dr. George Brown, Rev. John Booths, Rev. W. J. Bailey, Rev. Burt, and Rev. C. W. Sapp, the present presiding elder.

Bishops who have presided over the Virginia Conference and were serving us are: Bishop Blackwell, Bishop Carwell, Bishop Alstock, Bishop Medford and the present prelate Bishop Stewart.

Many members have passed away over the years but there are still a faithful few left carrying on the good work.

Eva Love Smith

The A M. E. Zion Church is 147 years old.

"I will guide Thee,
I will guide Thee,
I will guide Thee with mine eye:
Or the way from earth to Heaven
I will guide Thee with mine eye."

CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS
NOT REPORTED

A RETROSPECTIVE VIEW OF 98 YEARS PILGRIMAGE OF THE CYPRESS BAPTIST CHURCH

The Cypress Baptist Church was organized in the home of Mrs. Easter Eley in 1866, the spot of organization is known today as the Easter Field and is located on the farm of Mr. W. Guy Betts, Sycamore Cross, Isle of Wight County, Virginia.

The church was organized by Mrs. Irene George, Spottsville, Surry County, Virginia. The first officers of the church were: Jesse Bailey, William Bailey, Fisher Bailey, Payton Bailey, Ross Gwaltney, Ruben N. White, Willis Roberts, Willis Blizzard Ist, Thomas Bradly, Demous Bradly, Hartwell Halloman, Merritt Blizzard, Cornelous Clayton, Dioly Cypress, Sterling Tucker, and James Wooden, Sr. Some names may not be found on the court's records due to the fact that they were added later.

In the spring of 1867 the church moved into Old Buck Cypress Church owned by the Episcopalians later by the Christians (white) located one and one-half miles from the Mussell Folk Farm, which is known today as the town of Dendron. This was several years before Surry Lumber Company came to Dendron.

Late in 1867 the organization moved to the place known as Piney Grove in the fork of Walker's Road, between the farm and home of Dr. S. B. Barham, on the Surry Courthouse road by the way of Moore Swamp Baptist Church.

Mrs. George, founder of the church, secured three acres of land more or less from Dr. Barham for a church location. Services were held under a bush-arbor in summer and during winter months the services were held in the home of Mrs. Irene George.

Shortly after the church moved into its new location there was a difference in opinion as to whether the church be named Piney Grove or Cypress. Consensus of opinion must have been Piney Grove because the court's records state this fact. Not long afterwards the name Cypress Baptist Church was finally adopted. Records in the clerk's office, Surry, also record this statement. All this time from organization the services consisted of Prayer Meetings and Christian experience.

Still later in the year a Rev. Baylor Wyatt, a veteran of the war between the states, came to this side of James River from Williamsburg and served Cypress Church as its first pastor.

Rev. Wyatt said that the Lord sent him to Cypress Church and gave him the words for his text. "Come Over to Macedonia and Help Us." Acts 16:9. Rev. Wyatt served Cypress Church as long as he was able to travel. He served well.

Ministers who supplied the pulpit while it was vacant were: Rev. Allen Jones, J. C. Allen, Nelson Taylor, George Butler, and J. C. George.

Rev. T. M. Bowman, Petersburg, followed Rev. Wyatt as pastor. He was much loved, had his ups and downs as all pastors have and rendered a splendid service.

After Rev. Bowman left the church, others who supplied the pulpit were: Rev. M. S. Simmons, W. E. Gibbsons, William Haywood, better known as (Telie Haywood), H. L. Jones, Norman Duggar, and Miiachi Thompson.

Rev. Dr. Ellis Watts of Petersburg succeeded Rev. Bowman as pastor of the church. Dr. Watts used these words for his first text: "I came to Serve."

Many changes took place during the time he was pastor. He compromised with no one for representing the church in which he believed. He proved his point by the scriptures. He emphasized the fact that the power of God in an electrical storm is the same as in the storm of life, it is the lightning and

not the thunder that kills, so also it is the lightning that gives us faith, death and the light of life. He took time to explain his messages. He emphasized light and life.

There were some of the church records lost due to fires destroying the homes of three church clerks: namely; C. Ruben Parker, Sterling Tucker, and J. H. Smith.

Regardless to what has ever happened, God has always preserved two things: His Bible and the records of His church.

Many of the older officers including Cornelius Clayton, Archer Hemmons, Lud Epps, Randal Lee, Barney Newby, Jerry Parson, William W. Seldon, James Seldon, John Artis, Jr., and Soloman Newby.

Rev. J. H. Alexander of Bells Mill was the next pastor. During his stay no pastor had more influence over his flock than he did. Deacons ordained while he was pastor were: Judie Lee, Dale Newby, Andrew Haskett, Robert Henry Drew, and Isiah Jones.

After Rev. Alexander left, Rev. M. S. Simmons, J. H. Harrison, W. H. George, Lorenza Alexander, son of Rev. J. H. Alexander, Rev. J. T. Burrell, and Rev. Burford supplied the pulpit.

Rev. J. H. Higgs, Dendron, veteran in World War II, was the next pastor. He was shell-shocked. He was taken with a nervous break down during the revival meeting on a Thursday afternoon from which he never recovered. Rev. George was asked to close the week services.

Rev. Bolden Bradly was the next pastor. Rev. Bradly would not accept the office as pastor unless he was elected annually. His reason for doing this was he wanted the people to be entirely satisfied with his services. The church complied with request and more than ninety percent of his members approved his methods in church management. He and his faithful wife were highly respected. Rev. Bradly fell dead on one morning as he was getting ready to go to one of his fields of labor in Charles City County.

Deacons ordained during Rev. Bradly's pastorate were: Deacons Richard Moton, Russell Savedge, Pursell Eguhard and Zelna Parson.

Rev. Harvey Johnson, C. A. Brown, Lewis Davis and W. W. Mason supplied the pulpit on the passing of Rev. Bradly.

Rev. Preston Hayes, Newport News, is the seventh pastor of Cypress Church. Just as his predecessor, Rev. Bradly, he is in the hearts of his people. Rev. Hayes and his good wife have their hearts and soul in their work and we hope they will be with us for many years to come.

It is worth knowing that many of the officers and members of neighboring churches once held their membership with Cypress Church; namely; Pleasant Burrell, Little William Robertson, Walter Bailey, Waverly Bailey, Albert Blizzard, Henry Lupsy, Rice Porter, Robert Blizzard, Rev. James Henry Dillard, Major Byrd, Frank Shears, Sr., and John H. Gilchrist.

The question may be asked. How was this record preserved? I think I can answer this question. When I was a boy about fourteen years old my father, Junius H. George Ist, and brother Nick Candy, were discussing the history of Cypress and Mt. Mariah Churches. I asked my father to let me make notes of this church history that these records may be saved. My request appealed to their reason, I made the notes, and the result of that, is what I am saying to you at this time. My father, brother Nick Candy and brother James Brown, Sr., met in my father's home later, and from their knowledge as eye witnesses, I wrote the histories of both Cypress and Mt. Mariah Churches.

In 1865, a woman by the name of Amelia Howard, better known as "Mother Howard", was sent here by the Freedsmen's Bureau of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to teach the Negro people. She was known as a teacher, preacher, and missionary. I mention "Mother Howard's" name for several reasons: (1) She was a strict Episcopalian and made her home with Mrs. Irene George who was a strict Baptist. (2) Mother Howard organized the following churches: Mt. Mariah, Mt. Hope, Mt. Pisqua, which is known today as Emmanuel Baptist Church of Isle of Wight County, Virginia; Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Bacon's Castle, Surry County; and Mt. Joy Baptist Church, near Carsley, Surry County; known today as Jerusalem Baptist Church. (3) She was a woman of much wisdom, she spent her last days in the home of brother Nick Candy's mother, and was buried beside her in the George Brown Cemetery about two miles west of this church.

In reality, Cypress Church has four daughters: (1) Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, organized in 1867; (2) Golden Hill Baptist Church, organized in 1901; (3) First Baptist Church, Dendron, organized in 1900; and (4) St. Paul Church, organized in 1911.

Last, but not least, I mention the name of Deacon Agustus B. Doles. He happened to be better qualified than any of his deacon brethren and he did much to help his church over hard places. He held his membership here until he went back to his home, Ivor, Southampton County, near Gilfield Baptist Church. Even though he held his membership at Gilfield Baptist Church, he attended services here at Cypress Baptist Church regularly many years thereafter.

The first Bible School in Negro churches was held at Cypress Church. Moore Swamp Church (white) paid the cost of the instructor. She was a young woman from Union University, Richmond. Visitors from church schools all over the county attended. The following week the Bible School was started in Dendron. Since that time Sister Ida B. Miller has been Director, Deacon Russell Savedge, Superintendent, and Rev. W. Herbert George, Bible Class Teacher.

The pastor always gave a sermonet on closing day and the business men furnished the refreshments.

We want to express our gratitude to the white friends who did much to enhance our church work: Honorable S. B. Barham, M.D.; Honorable S. B. Barham, Jr., both former members of the General Assembly of Virginia, the latter, former State Senator and Chairman of the 4th Congregational District of the State of Virginia. Honorable M. G. Hold, M.D., former Representative of the General Assembly of Virginia, Misses W. J. and J. W. Pond, Wakefield, Virginia; Mr. Robert James, Elberon; Mr. J. Patrick Holloway, Spottsville, Surry County, Virginia; Mister W. H. and W. P. Gwaltney and family; Mr. W. P. Warren, father and grandfather, Bacon's Castle, and Mr. P. D. Gwaltney and family, meatpackers, Smithfield, Virginia; and Mr. John Spratley and family, Elberon, Surry County, Virginia.

Mrs. Velma G. Tucker, daughter of Mrs. Ida G. Gwaltney, youngest daughter of Mrs. Irene George, taught Cypress Public School several years and rendered a splendid service.

"Crowns of thorns may perish,

Kingdoms rise and wane,

But the church of Jesus

Constant will remain;

Gates of hell can never

Against the church prevail

We have Christ's own promise,

And that cannot fail."

ANNEX

WOMEN LEADERS IN CYPRESS CHURCH

Among the women leaders of Cypress Church were Sisters: Irene George, Easter Eley, Hannah Gwaltney, Anliya Bailey, Cheery Eley, Bibanna Hemmons, Amanda Boykins, Mary Etta Clarke, Willie Hemmons, Rebecca Roberts, Hannah Ann Epps, Julie Parker, Richetta Ellis, Jane Wooden, Mary Ella George, Clara Ann Seldon, Susan Shears, Anliya Short Smith, Mildred Hogwood Hemmons, Alice B. Newby, who is now mother of the church, Theodossa Hollman, Nannie Tucker, Mollie Parker, Ida Blizzard, Lou Delia Hogwood, Alice L. Newby, Eurania Parson, Adline Bailey, Susan Bailey, Catherine Bailey, Ann Robinson, Rebecca Taylor, Hattie Lee, Mary E. Tucker, Polly Hemmons, Hattie Bailey Roberts, Ella King, Adley Artis Gilchrist, Florence Bailey, Alice Clayton, Laura Gibbs, Maggie Doles, Bettie Parker, Nancy Parker, Dora Seldon, Nora Bailey, Emma J. Bailey, Grace G. Slade, Daisy Seldon, Nancy Seldon, Gracy Ellis, Jugertha Seldon, Annie Parson McMillan, Josephine Newby Witherspoon, Ethel Newby, Hattie Newby, Ida Simmons, Hattie Artis Brown, Lillian Hogwood, Mary Hogwood, Annie Newby Parson, Cora Parson, Allie Newby Clarke, Ever Newby Bell, Ida Newby, Florence Bailey, Sarah Bailey, Ida Bailey Miller, Alma Bailey, Elma Bailey, Dirus Ellis Evans, Chester Evans Rosa Ellis Moton, Arnell G. Savedge, Joyce Newby, Deloise Savedge, Eurania Parsons, Elizabeth Newby, Angeline Ellis, Cora Newby, Sally Newby, Bertha Pretlow, Ever Pretlow Bell, Wilia Williams, Audrey Newby, Alice Parson, Bernice Parson, Audrey Bell, Barbara Ann Moton, Nodortha Newby, Irene Cypress, and Naomi Washington.

CLAREMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

The time and place of the organization of the First Baptist Church, Claremont, is unknown. We know that Rev. Nelson Taylor was the first pastor. He was succeeded by the pastors as follows: Rev. Cyrus Williams, Allen Jones, Rushmere, Belvey Gardner, Rev. Black, Eastern Shore, W. W. Gilchrist, Newport News, who was here twenty years. Rev. Austin, Newport News, was here after Rev. Gilchrist left.

Some of the first deacons and trustees were: Frank Paris, Horace Jones, Willie King, John Elliott, William Lamb, John Thomas, and William Newby.

Later came Willie King, Jr., Arthur Williams, and Preston Bolding as deacons.

At this time the church has no pastor.

"God is calling the Prodigal Son
Without delay,
Hear O, Hear His calling
Calling now for thee;
Though you have wondered
So far from His presence,
Come today;
Hear His loving voice
Is calling still."

DENDRON BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Baptist Church Dendron was organized in the home of its founder, Willis Roberts in 1901. The little group moved from there to the True Reformer's Hall in Dendron.

The people moved from there next door and laid their church foundation where the present church building now stands.

Willis Roberts was the first officer and deacon.

Some of the deacons and officers were Robert Johnson, Anthony Irvy, James Charity, Joseph Byrd, William Hurt, Thomas Bradly, Demous Bradly, Edmond Epps, James Johnson, J. E. Jones, Joe Morris, Emmit Peterson, George Jones, W. W. Mason, Alford Rhodes, J. D. Wilson, John Roberts, F. L. Baker, Albert Mason, Horace Smith. Mike Blackwell, Allen Blackwell, Sam Briggs, Billie Cypress, Alford Johnson, Edward Byrd, Harold Johnson, Payton Calahan, Alexander Bailey, Nathaniel Ellis, and Otis Johnson. Rev. B. J. Richardson, Waverly, was the first pastor in 1902. Dr. C. P. Maddison, Norfolk, preached the installation sermon.

Dr. R. E. Paige, succeeded Rev. Richardson. He had the old steeple removed replacing it with a belfry. A new ceiling replaced the old one and the church was painted inside and out.

Rev. Bridgeford, Suffolk, followed Dr. Paige. Rev. J. H. Alexander, Bells Mill came to us after Rev. Bridgeford left. Rev. Bolden Bradly, Rushmore followed Rev. Alexander.

Nearer my God to Thee,

Nearer to Thee:

Even though it be a cross:

That raises me.

THE FERGUSSON'S GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

In the year of 1890 it was the vision of Rev. James Tynes better known as Rev. Gentlemen Jim Tynes, who saw the need of a place to worship God. He built a bush arbor and after a period of time his congregation grew so large they decided to build a church.

The land was given by Mr. Tom Fergusson and for that reason it was named in his honor The Fergusson's Grove Baptist Church.

The timber was given to build the church by Wilson Pretlow.

The foundation was laid by the Hardy and Pretlow families. These families still live in the hearts of all and will not be forgotten.

Some of the first energetic members were: William Roberts, Joe Pretlow, William Hardy, Margarett Hardy, and many others.

In later years they renovated the church after finding that it would accommodate all of its members.

Among the first Deacons were: Wilson Pretlow, Madison White, and John Jiles.

First mother of the church was Mrs. Lydia Taylor, the first clerk of the church was A. D. Pretlow and the first corner stone was laid in 1893.

After the death of Rev Tynes the church called Rev. William Haywood (better known as "Telie Haywood"). He served us for many years. Under him these officers were ordained Deacons: Nathaniel Pretlow, Sherman Pretlow, John Pretlow, Thomas Pretlow, James Latta, Robert Jiles, Sr., Aaron Goodrich, Thomas Barnes, and Cawson Wilson.

Rev. Allen Jones, pastor of first Gravel Baptist Church served as acting pastor of Fergusson's Grove Baptist Church. For many years, our next pastor was Rev. S. L. Scott, Portsmouth, with keen sense he led the flock to success. He was with us ten years, remodeled the church where it is today, and had the pleasure of laying the second corner stone in 1923.

Rev. J. Q. A. Lassiter succeeded Rev. Scott. The following four deacons were ordained under his pastorate: Robert Jiles, Jr., Novel Pretlow, John Clagget, and Willie Goodrich.

Rev. J. B. Williams, Capron, served us a short time, due to his failing health, he resigned.

Rev. S. G. Williams pastor of Hill Street Baptist Church, Smithfield, has served us eight years and laid another floor.

Rev. C. C. Rogers, Suffolk, followed Rev. Williams. These three Deacons were ordained while he was with us: Willie Hardy, Alex Harris and Wallace Hardy.

Rev. Rogers organized the first usher board. Other work done on the church while Rev. Rogers was here: New windows installed, choir stand put behind the pulpit, and steeple built. Brother James Pretlow painted the church building outside.

Rev. C. C. Rogers, pastor Mrs. Cora Parson, clerk.

History of church given by Rev. D. E. Hardy and Mrs. Cora Parson.

You are always welcome at Fergusson's Grove Baptist Church. Come!

Come to the church in the wild woods,
Come to the church in the dale;
No church is so dear to my childhood;
As the little brown church in the dale.

GOSPEL SAINTS OF RUNNYMEDE CHURCH

The Gospel Saints of Runnymede Church was organized in the home of Deacon Joseph and Mrs. Cypress in Newport News, October 21, 1961 by Elder Andrew Cypress, brother of Deacon Cypress.

In order to reach more people the organization moved to the South side of James River in the home of Deacon Frissell Cypress in Runnymeade Surry County.

As the church building was not completed the services were held from house to house in the form of a cottage prayer meeting, using Deacon Frissell Cypress home as headquarters.

"We know that we are on the right road from earth to heaven
We are on the rock at last, we are on the rock at last
We have found a place to rest our feet;
We are on the rock at last."

Pastor.....Elder Andrew Cypress

Secretary.....Sister Flossie B. Cypress

GRACE UNION HOLINESS CHURCH

NOT REPORTING

GRAVEL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1865 the white people gave the colored people the second Sunday in each month to hold their church meetings.

Having no pastor, the people elected John Divine Charity as their leader, who was succeeded by Sam Smith, James Brown, James Gilchrist, Filling Holloway, Peter Allen, Harrison Hill, and Jack Hines. These Bethren carried on the meeting until 1867 or 1868 without a pastor.

At this time the Brethren felt the need of a pastor and called Rev. John Smith of Hampton, Virginia. He was with us about four or five years and did a great work for the Master's Kingdom, and many souls were added to the church. W. H. Davanport, Edam Boykin and others were in this number.

The church helped educate Rev. W. H. Davanport in Wayland Seminary. He was called pastor of the church. His home was in Cape Charles, and he was with us for many years.

Deacons Sampson Howell, Junius Pierce and Adam Boykin, as eye witnesses, gave me the facts also from what I am writing from here on.

Evidently, the white church at Cabin Point and Claremont had a hand in helping the colored people with their church work at Gravel Hill.

The first location of the Gravel Hill Church was on the Dripping Spring Farm on the right hand side of the road from Claremont to Cabin Point.

The congregation moved from Dripping Springs to Flying Point on the farm by Eddie Johnson adjoining Mr. Charlie Butts Farm.

This is the place you may say where Gravel Hill Church was organized on its own.

The third and present location of Gravel Hill Church was brought from the William Allen Estate.

The church began under a bush arbor as all of the colored peoples' churches in early days did

Rev. J. W. Cobin, Hampton, was the third pastor. Rev. A. A. Hill, Hampton, succeeded him. Rev. H. M Henderson, Newport News, came to us after Rev. Hill left. Rev. Johnson, Bower's Hill, served us after Rev. Henderson resigned.

Rev. H. A. Hill, Smithfield, who followed Henderson, is pastor of Gravel Hill Baptist Church at this time.

Other officers of the church are: Roger Hardy, Albert Overby, Sr., Mathew Wooden, James Fountain, John Thomas, Allen Pierce, John Pierce, Robert Johns, Sr., Deacons Shorl., Thomas Wooden, Archer Hardy, G. E. Mason and John Jones.

Brother Daniel Wooden, who is the oldest member in the church and Deacon Walter H. Jones, who is Chairman of the Deacon Board at this time.

Doctor Charles Fountain, grandson of Deacon Junius Pierce and son of Deacon and Mrs. James Fountain, is teaching at Hampton Institute where he received his first degree.

The Church of God stands on the hill, on the hill,

The Church of God stands on the hill.

There the people go, they are marching to and fro,

From the valley below, to the hill, to the hill,

From the valley below, to the hill.

HARRISON GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Harrison Grove Baptist Church, Elberon, Surry County, Virginia was organized over the Blacksmith shop of Cornelius Clayton, who gave the land for the church location next door.

The church was organized by the founder and pastor, Rev. James H. Harrison. When Rev. Harrison came here he could barely write his name. Even though he had a large family, realizing the fact that the Lord had called him to preach the Gospel, he drove twenty-four miles and back in horse and buggy from Elberon to Claremont where he attended school at the Temperance Normon and Collegiate Institute under the Rev. John J. Smallwood, phd. founder of the school

Dr. Smallwood accepted Rev. Harrison where he was and taught him how to read and write. Dr. Smallwood also taught Rev. Harrison how to study the Bible.

When the corner-stone of Harrison Grove Church was laid Dr. Smallwood served as the principal speaker.

At this service I was asked to read the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Lincoln, January 3, 1965.

As time went by Rev. Harrison served as pastor of the following churches: Mount Zion Baptist Church and the Liberty Baptist Church, Charles City County, Piney Grove Baptist Church, Buck Horn, Nansemond County, Shiloh Baptist Church, Isle of Wignt county, and the Central Hill Mission, Isle of Wight County.

Rev. Harrison worked so hard that he had to resign at Harrison Grove.

The church called Rev. W. H. George who served after Rev. Harrison at Harrison Grove.

During Rev. George's pastorate a new top was put on the church, walls and ceiling were covered, and the church was painted. There were twenty-four converts and seven other members added to the church while Rev. George was pastor.

Rev. R. L. Davis, Surry County, followed Rev. George as pastor. Rev. Davis added two rooms to the church, installed a pump, and built two toilets, and front door steps.

Deacons of the Harrison Grove were: Mack Rawlings, C. W. McKey, Eddie Drew, James Drew, Ollie Drew, and Henry Shears.

"What a fellowship, what a joy divine;
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness what a peace is mine;
Leaning on the everlasting arm.
Leaning, I am leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarm;
Leaning, I am leaning;
Leaning on the everlasting arm."

JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

The Jerusalem Baptist Church, Carsley, Surry County, Virginia, was organized in the home of Mondoya Bailey in 1867.

The church was first known as Mount Joy Baptist Church and was organized by a woman by the name of Amelia Howard, better known as "Mother Howard" who was sent here by the Freedmen's Bureau of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the close of the war between the states to teach colored people. "Mother Howard" was known as a teacher, preacher and missionary.

The land for the church location was purchased from a woman named Nancy James.

Rev. Davenport, Cape Charles, was the first pastor. The first church was built under Rev. W. H. Davenport, two rooms added and other improvements made. A Rev. Smith followed Rev. Davenport.

Rev. Peter R. Berry, Petersburg, came after Rev. Smith left the church. Rev. B. J. Richardson, Waverly, succeeded Rev. Berry, and was with us twenty years.

Rev. Samuel L. Perry, Hopewell, followed Rev. Richardson. Dr. Perry had his share of friends, among his flock. He had many fine traits which qualified him to serve his people. He was well trained, ingenicus, and a christian gentleman who had plenty of time to be courteous to all who visited his church.

Rev. W. F. Hill, Norfolk, served us after Dr. Perry left. Rev. Hill was here about twenty years. While he was pastor electric lights were installed, repairs were made in front of the church, roof covered, and church painted.

Rev. G. L. Ruffin, Prince George, followed Rev. Hill. He came to us in 1948 and was with us fourteen years. Rev. Ruffin was taken with a paralytic stroke during the Lebanon Virginia Baptist Association here and died before he reached the Obici Hospital, Suffolk, September 12, 1962.

The following Deacons served Jerusalem Baptist Church: John James, B. F. Mason, Walter Homes, Robert Chappell, John Ruff, Daniel Charity, John Elliott, Bossie Flowers, Henry Johnson, Carter Pollord, Plenie Byrd, John Byrd, Thomas Parson, Charles Bailey, Abraham Flowers, Harry Chappell, Robert Pretlow, Pattrick Thomas, Daniel Ellis, Lawrence Ellis, Johnnie Holmes, Willie Fergusson, Joe Ellis, James Ellis, Thomas Fields, and G. E. Mason. Deacons Thomas Fields is chairman of the board.

Many persons have come and gone since our first anniversary, in 1867. The church has passed through lots of trials and tribulations, we have laughed and cried. But on this ninety-seventh anniversary we can say with the writer:

"O' land of rest for thee I say,
When will my moments come;
When I shall lay my armour by;
And dwell in peace at home.
We'll work, till Jesus come;
We'll work, till Jesus come;
We'll work, till Jesus come;
And then we'll gather home."

LEBANON BAPTIST CHURCH

The Lebanon Baptist Church, Surry County, was organized in the home of Ruben W. White in the year of 1868.

The location of the organization was a short distance in the rear of Holy Bible Marker of the early Christian Church (white) on highway #10, on route to Spring Grove from Surry Courthouse.

The church was organized by a woman named Amelia Howard, better known as "Mother Howard", who was sent here by the Freedmen's Bureau, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to teach the Negro people. This happened at the close of the War Between the States. Mother Howard was a teacher, preacher, and missionary.

Rev. Baylor Wyatt, Williamsburg, a veteran of the War Between the States, was the first pastor. Rev. Wyatt said that the Lord sent him to Lebanon Church and gave him the words of his text, the same words he used at Cypress Church one year before, "Come over in Macedonia and help us." Acts 16:9

"Surry County Clerk's Office Deed Book 25, page 697, on June 12, 1893, James P. Seward and wife sold Alonza Hunnicutt and others trustees for Saint James Lodge Number 14 Grand accepted order of Pilgrim Travellers of North America, 1 acre of land".

"Beginning at a pine tree on the Public Road at Lebanon Church near Surry County Courthouse."

"But is was not until July 22, 1895 (Deed Book 26, page 667) that Richard Cooke and wife sold P. E. Ellis, Jack Harrison and William Robertson, trustees for Lebanon Baptist, colored church and their successors in office, 1 acre of land more or less, beginning at a pine a corner on A. G. Smith's and J. P Seward's land, thence in a southwesterly direction to another pine on the road leading from Surry Courthouse to Gill's Mill, thence up said road to stake at corner of Ben Hargrave's fence. Thence to a northwesterly direction to the pine the place of beginning."

"On March 26, 1914 (Deed Book page 144) James Bage, Jesse Taylor and Gotlief Lunsford, Andrew Brown and E. E. Harrison, were made trustees and all others were removed."

Among some of the early Deacons of Lebanon Church were: B. T. George, Theodolphus Butler, and Victor Haskett. Deacon Pleasant Burrell was later a member of the Board and was chairman at the time of his passing.

Under the influence of the Lebanon Baptist Church several persons have gone out in the field as teachers and in other professions: namely, Mrs. Flossy John Gilchrist, Mrs. Rebecca Johns Wooden Mrs. Gladys Waller Parker, daughter of Deacon and Mrs. Muncho Elijah Waller, Ozone Park, New York, a stenographer, and her husband, Fernell Parker, Floor Supervisor in the First National Bank, New York City.

Dr. Briggs, Washington, D. C., Rev. A. S. George, Washington, D. C., son of Deacon B. T. George, Dr. Theodore R. George, son of Rev. A. S. George, and Theodore R. George, Jr., a Surgical Aid in the United States Army, Washington, D. C., and Attorney Clayborne George, son of Deacon B. T. George, former member of the City Council and now United States Commissioner of the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

"But it was not until July 22, 1895 (Deed Book 25, page 667) that Richard Cooke and wife sold P. E. Ellis, Jack Harrison, and William Robertson, trustees for Lebanon Baptist Church, Negro, and their successors in office 1 acre of land more or less, beginning at a Pine a corner on A. G. Smith and J. P. Seward's land, thence in a southwesterly direction to another pine on the road leading from Surry Courthouse to Gill's Mill, thence up said road to stake at the corner of Ben Hargrave's fence, thence a northernly direction to the Pine the place of beginning."

"On March 25, 1914 (Deed Book, page 144) James R. Bage, Jesse Taylor and Gotlief Lunsford were appointed trustees of Lebanon Baptist Church and all former trustees were removed." "On November 12, 1959, (Deed Book 57, page 401) Emma Lunsford and others being all of the members in good financial standing of the Saint James Lodge #14. G. A. O. Pilgrim Travellers of North America sold Gotlief Lunsford, Andrew Brown, E. E. Harrison, Rufus Gilliam and Muncho Elijah Waller, trustees of Lebanon Church, the 1 acre sold them conveyed them as above." Other pastors who served Lebanon Church after Rev. Wyatt were: Rev. J. C. Allen, Rev. A. S. George, Dr. R. B. Page, Windsor, was pastor for twenty-one years. He was succeeded by Rev. M. G. Skinner, Hopewell. Rev. J. H. Alexander supplied the pulpit for a short time and the church called Dr. J. Dent Marshburn, who is with us at this time.

The first church was built under the Pastorate of Rev. Wyatt, and repairs were made on the church by all the other pastors. The church was painted inside and out, other repairs were made, and it was also landscaped under the Pastorate of Dr. Marshburn.

When we say J. Dent Marshburn, we are not talking about a man who is known locally, statewide, or nationwide, but Dr. Marshburn is known throughout the entire world.

Even though he is a very busy man he has time enough to visit the sick, he has time enough to see, shake hands, and to give a word of encouragement to the humblest person in his parish.

We are proud of him because he is humble, kind, and sincere.

It is of interest to know that the Lebanon Virginia Baptist Association was organized at Lebanon Baptist Church 80 years ago.

God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform,
He plants his footprints in the seas
And rides upon the storm.

MORRIS' GROVE HOLINESS CHURCH

HISTORY CANNOT BE FOUND

MOUNT HOPE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Mount Hope A.M.E. Zion Church was organized in the year of 1867, in the home of Henry Walker by a woman named Amelia Howard, better known as "Mother Howard." She was sent here at the close of the war between the states by the Freedmen's Bureau, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to teach the Negro people.

At that time many of the Negro people went with their masters to church; space was provided for them, and they were considered members of the white church. The white church Rocky Hock, in this community being Methodist Episcopal, it was understood that the Negro people were of the same faith.

Contrary to what some people said, the white people as a whole were kind to their servants and they did not let outsiders molest them.

The white people taught the Negro how to work and they were fed and clothed. Many colored were taught how to read and write.

Among other leaders including Henry Walker, were: Charles Womble, Noah King, John Bailey. Nepolian Smith, Alexander Smith, Joseph Bailey, Edmond Byrdsong, Rev. Thomas Ellis, Edmond Pretlow, Tony Brown, Isaiah Evans, Isaw Byrdsong, Sr. Emory Johnson, Joseph Ellis, Anderson Booth, Washington Jones, C. B. Bailey, James Equhart, Rev. Garney Equhart, Christpton Equhart, Hope Womble. Henry Womble, Rufus Ellis, Richard Spratley, Jacob Spratley. Rev. Spratley and Andrew Bailey.

Among the Bishops who presided over Mount Hope Church are: Bishop Hood, Bishop Blackwell, Bishop Carwell, Bishop Alstock, Bishop Medford, and Bishop Stewart. Bishop Stewart presides over the Virginia Conference at this time.

Among the presiding Elders who served Mount Hope are: Dr. Gregory, Rev. Dr. Alexander, Rev. George Brown. Rev. John Booth, Rev. W. J. Bailey, Rev. Burt, and C. W. Supple.

Among the pastors who served Mt. Hope were: Rev. Alfonso Bower, Sr., Dr. G. H. Miles, Rev. H. E. Pettagrew, and Rev. Platt, Rev. J. C. Edney, Rev. Conquest, Rev. G. N. Cuffey, Sr, Rev. Morgan, Rev. Lolkan and Rev. Artis who is pastor at this time.

"O' Zion haste thy message now fulfilling,
To tell to all the world that God's light;
That He who made all nations is not willing;
That one soul should perish lost in shade of night."

"Publish glad tidings,
Tidings of peace;
Tidings of Jesus;
Redemption and relief."

MT. MARIAH A. M. E. CHURCH

The Mount Mariah A. M. E. Church was organized in the home of Benjamin Brown in the spring of 1865 by a woman named Amelia Howard better known as "Mother Howard" who was sent here by the Freedmen's Bureau, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was sent here to teach the Negro people at the close of the War Between the States. Later in the year the church moved to Herbert Brown's new ground under an oak tree on a farm owned today by the estate of Georgiana Smith. The church stands today about one hundred yards more or less in front of this farm.

Mother Howard, being an Episcopalian, sent to the Virginia Conference of the A. M. E. Church for a pastor and the conference sent Rev. Peter Sheppard. Since that time Mount Mariah has been a member of the Virginia Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. I write as one who knows as my property joins the Mount Mariah Church grounds.

The next pastor of Mt. Mariah Church was Rev. J. C. Mackey who served the circuit twice at intervals, twenty-four years apart. Rev. Mackey and his congregation made a great contribution to the community. During his last pastorate he had married and his wife, Mrs. Martha Mackey, was an influential school teacher, a real mother and an ideal minister's wife.

Rev. Mackey used to tell a story. He said when the present church location was cleared that he and Rev. J. C. George had a foot race to see which one could reach the new church location first and cut down a bush. The race took place. Rev. Mackey won.

The following pastors have served Mt. Mariah Church: Dr. Peter Sheppard, Revs. J. C. Mackey, J. W. Fuller, W. H. Redd, Felix Wood and J. C. George, John Offer, M. S. Simmons, W. H. Carter, John Scoffield, W. H. Lee, Dr. George Jemmerson, Revs. Lewis, Jeremiah Cuffie, J. Strong, J. H. Thomas, C. E. Hunter, Dr. J. H. Duckett, W. W. Wilson, J. H. Randolph, Rev. Shaw, R. H. Davis, William Davis, J. C. Parolla, R. T. Watkins, J. W. Montague, Peter Hollmon, Rev. Hicks served longer than any other pastor and was never late for service after traveling over twenty-two miles, Rev. I. M. Reid, Rev. Tomlin, Rev. Davis, Rev. Gibson and the present Rev. L. S. Stroud.

Among the presiding elders who have served us are: Dr. I. L. Butts, Dr. M. E. Davis, Dr. James Tynes, Dr. Johnson. The following Bishops have served us in the Virginia Conference: Bishop Wayman, Bishop Camball, Bishop Brown, Bishop Payne, Bishop Turner, Bishop Gaines, Bishop Handy, Bishop Lee, Bishop Coppin, Bishop Johnson, Bishop F. M. Roane and Bishop Green.

Some of the leaders and trustees of Mt. Mariah A. M. E. Church were: Benjamin Brown, Sr., Sampson Clarke, Ruben Butler, Sr., Phill Smith, James Brown, Sr., George Carroll, Nickolus Candy, Henry Wells, Herbert Brown, Jr., Stafety Brown, Sypia Brown, William Brown, Hayden Brown, Benjamin Brown, Joseph Smith, Albert Newby, Reuben Butler, Jr., Simon Savedge, William Clarke, Stephen Cypress, Sr., J. W. Candy, W. W. Cypress, Early Wells, Jethphro Wells, Emmitt Brown, William Hamlin, Dean Cypress, Hayden Brown, James Brown, Jr., Benjamin Savedge, Ruffin Savedge, I. George

Lilly, William Short, Elliott Clarke, G. J. Clarke, Charlie Cypress, C. H. Brown, James Cypress, George Cypress, Nathan Newby, F. K. Camball, I. K. McMillan, Edgar Newby, Robert Cypress, Stephen Cypress, Jr., W. L. Brown, Sr., Ruffin Savedge, W. L. Brown, Jr., Beecher Ward, Albert Newby, Jackson Evans, Sr., Ira McMillan, Austin McMillan, William Smallwood, Sr., Marcus Cypress, and Zenus Cypress.

Leaders among the women were Sisters: Cornelia Brown, Rebecca Jane Savedge, Amy Bailey, Malinda Brown, Nancy Brown, Roberta Bailey, Georgiana Smith, Nancy Bailey, Angeline Wells, Tama Lilly, Michele Candy, Sudie Smith, Sarah Wells, Frances Wilbert, Teressa Newby, Inda Smith, Mary Lou Wells, Gay Savedge, Joanna Savedge Parson, Virginia Cypress Brown, Eva Candy Pretlow, Georgia Ward, Amanda Cypress, Lucy Savedge Pigram, Beatrice Savedge Jackson, Sophia Savedge Brown, Emily Newby, Virginia Evans, Sarah Ann Eguhart, and Viola Smallwood.

It was on Mt. Mariah
Abraham was called to go
To offer up his only son
How he did it folks don't know,
Not but one more has offered a son like this.
Wherever I inquire:
To match the son offered by Abram
On Mt. Mariah;
That second son was offered for all
Had to weep, mourn, and pray,
That second son was the Son of God
Who took our sins away.

MOUNT NEBO BAPTIST CHURCH

We build on the achievements of those who lived before us for years. Many members of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church have labored and sacrificed to give us the comforts we now enjoy.

It is not possible to discuss all of the heritage left by pioneers of this great church but we can consider a few of the most important.

Mt. Nebo Church had its origin in the year of 1867 when a few earnest Christians who had been worshipping God under a bush arbor were led and inspired by a missionary woman known as Amelia Howard who came from the Freedmen's Bureau, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to teach colored people. This was at the close of the War Between the States.

John Poole, who lived at a place known as the Pitmore Farm on the edge of Gravel Neck Road, purchased a barn and built it on the spot where Mt. Nebo Church, Bacon's Castle, now stands.

The story is told that some of the members of Mt. Nebo attended services at Moore's Swamp Baptist Church (white) Spottsville, Surry County, Virginia. Later the Mt. Nebo congregation worshipped at the Old Brick Church, Bacon's Castle, when it was abandoned by the whites.

Rev. Thaddeus Nettles was the first pastor. He served us five years.

Then the church called Rev. T. H. Poole in 1872 who served us forty years. The land for the church's location was given by Mr. Clarke and the church was built in 1873. Rev. Poole was a faithful and a peace-loving pastor. He was well admired and respected by his followers. He will live in the hearts of his members.

In 1913 the church called Rev. Henderson, Newport News, who served thirty-four years and six months. He was kind and sympathetic, always ready to visit the sick and help those in need. He was a good advisor and counselor. The church was remodeled in 1930 under his leadership, and he gave six months of his salary to help with this work.

Rev. E. D. Harrold, Franklin, who succeeded Rev. Henderson may be remembered by the peace satisfaction and security that was continued from Rev. Henderson's administration. He was also a servant of God and his people. He was elected in January, 1949, and served us until August, 1960.

We want to make a note of the fact that the children of Rev. H. M. Henderson and Mrs. Mamie Henderson are all outstanding people. Rev. John B. Henderson has been president of the Lott Carey Convention and is now pastor of Bank Street Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. Thomas B. Henderson, second son, is president of Union University, Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Welton Henderson is principal of one of the schools in Norfolk, Virginia. Mrs. Pearl H. Woods, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. H. M. Henderson, is supervisor of music in the City Schools in Richmond. Dr. Mary H. Winfield, youngest daughter of Rev. Henderson is a noted lecturer and teacher in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Lois Howell Yelgell, Miss Estelle Howell, and Miss Christine Howell, sisters, went into the teaching profession. Their brother, Mr. Hannibal Howell, is the retired principal of the Nansemond County High School, and his son Dr. Hannibal Howell, Jr., is school physician at Hampton Institute.

Miss Ethel Poole also taught school in the county and her sister, Mrs. Artis Poole Brown, succeeded her father, Deacon M. B. Poole, as funeral director of the M. B. Poole Funeral Home, Beacon's Castle, Surry County. Miss Martha Tucker and her sister, Miss Sarah Tucker, Mrs. Lillie Clayton Flowers, and Mrs. Daisy Jackson Morris were also teachers who went from Surry County. Mrs. Mary Brown and her daughters, Mrs. Cora M. Brown, Miss Bessie Brown, and Miss Ruth Brown were outstanding teachers in Surry County. Miss Alida P. Banks, first Supervisor in Surry County, was dean of women in Howard University, Washington, D. C.

Hon. Goodman Brown, Sr. represented Surry and Prince George Counties in the General Assembly in Virginia 1888-1889.

Another noted lady who has gone out from this church is Mrs. Kate Banks Price, the daughter of Deacon William Banks and Mrs. Rebecca Banks of Washington, D. C. Mrs. Price is treasurer of the Lott Carey Convention and has served in that office for a number of years.

Including Deacon John Poole, others who served the church were: Edmon Price, Fred Todd, William Poole, Littleton Waller, James Howell, Madison Short, Isaac Elliott, John Howell, John Nolly, George Spratley, Henry Blount, James T. Howell, Jr., Frank Wright, William Short, John Branch, William Butler, W. R. Banks, M. B. Poole, R. D. Tyler, Eddie Spratley, Frank H. Howell, W. B. Poole, William Butler, Sr., Peter Edler, James Edler, W. S. Winfield, Artis Johnson, Louis Spratley, Littleton Spratley, Marion Pierce and William Butler, Jr.

The following ministers were sent out by the church: Rev. Emmitt Poole, John F. Waller. C. A. Brown, L. O. Banks, John A. Banks, W. W. Mason, and J. T. Burrell. Rev. Burrell served as assistant pastor under the pastorate of Rev. H. M. Henderson.

Sister Mamie Henderson, wife of Rev. Henderson, organized the first missionary circle in our church in 1919. She also organized the missionaries among the Women's Division of the Lebanon Virginia Baptist Association. Those who have served as presidents of this organization are: Sisters Irene Bank, Grace Slade, Lily Nollie, P. R. Howell, Mary L. Brown, Maria Poole, and Elizabeth Mason, who still serves us.

Rev. Ralph Revis, Lawrenceville, was elected pastor in 1961 and is our pastor at this time.

I was told that the South James River Baptist Sunday School Convention and the Mt. Nebo Sunday School Union were organized at this church.

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church has had four mothers: (1) Sister Louvinia Young, (2) Sister Willie Waller, (3) Sister Mary A. Howell, and (4) Sister Mary L. Brown.

Through the influence of the missionary of circles, $5287.74 has been realized. We have tried to give credit to all who faithfully worked to make these results possible.

Farming business operated in Surry County by Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Howell, Route 1, Surry, is rated second to none. Mr. Howell deserves much credit as a citizen. He is a veteran of World War One, a graduate of the Temperance Normal and Collegiate Institute, and is a great asset to his county.

It is of interest to know that Miss Daisy Poole, daughter of Deacon John Poole, founder of Mt. Nebo Church, married Dr. L. H. Foster, Sr., a former president of Virginia State College, Petersburg, and L. H. Foster, Jr., Phd., is now president of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama.

"From Nebo's rugged mountain

To India's coral strand,

Where Africa's sunny fountain

Rolls down the golden strain:

From many ancient river,

To many palmy plain:

They call us to deliver;

That land from endless pain."

MOUNT SINAI BAPTIST CHURCH

From previous history we learn that Mount Sinai Baptist Church, Isle of Wight County, was originally a part of the Cypress Baptist Church, Surry County which was organized near Sycamore Cross, Isle of Wight County, in 1866 and moved into Surry County in 1867.

For convenience of themselves and for the purpose of serving other people in this locality who had no church, some of the officers and members of the Cypress Church returned to Isle of Wight County and the Mount Sinai Baptist Church in the year, 1867.

Three of the first deacons of Cypress Church were of course among the first deacons of Mount Sinai, namely: Ross Gwaltney, Payton Bailey, and Clayborne Kello. Rev. Baylor Wyatt, pastor of the Cypress Baptist Church served as Mount Sinai's pastor.

One acre of land was purchased from Burgess Eurhart and wife, September 26, 1879 for the location of the Mount Sinai Baptist Church; Deed Book 45, page 118; clerk's office of Isle of Wight County, Isle of Wight, Virginia.
This church property was deeded to the following trustees: Peter Taylor, Dawson Holmes, Benjamin Drew, Daniel Johnson, and Nero Chaptman.

The following ministers have served as pastors of Mount Sinai Baptist Church: Revs. Baylor Wyatt, Sandy Simmons, W. M. Reid, C. P. Madison, R. B. Paige, J. H. Johnson, C. D. Ellis, B. L. Jeffres, H. H. Watts., J. A. Everetts, and H. P. Maynard

The church was built under the pastorate of Rev. Baylor Wyatt, remodeled first under the leadership of Dr. C. P. Madison, and again under the pastorate of Rev. B. L. Jeffres.

Including the deacons already mentioned, the following persons have served as deacons of Mount Sinai Baptist Church: Ross Gwaltney, Payton Bailey, Clayborne Kello, Benjamin Drew, Dawson Holmes, Daniel W. Johnson, Nero Chaptman, Augustus Gwaltney, Isaiah Edwards, Abelle Kello, G. C. Godwin, Henry Byrd, Charles Hill, Benjamin Drew, Walter Tynes, Robert Parkason, J. B. Simmons, A. P. Gwaltney, Alexander Byrd, Walter Clements, J. T. Brown, Jr., A. H Godwin, Morgan Clarke, Walter Clarke, Edward Gwaltney, Ross Haskins, and Richard Clarke.

The present trustees of Mount Sinai Baptist Church are: A. H. Godwin, Alexander Byrd, Ross Haskins, Joseph Butler, Isaiah Howard, P. C. Gwaltney, and Kenneth Gwaltney.

The church history would be incomplete without mentioning the name of the late Reverend M. S. Simmons, a son in the Gospel of this church. He served at times as supply pastor between every pastor from Rev. W. M. Reid to Dr. C. D. Ellis.

Rev. M. S. Simmons was a member of this church and the honored General Missionary of the South James River Baptist Sunday School Convention at the time of his passing.

Like all churches planted by the hand of God, Mount Sinai Baptist Church has had her smooth sailing at times: last but not least, the "Old Ship of Sinai" has had her stormy seas, yet on this seventy-ninth Anniversary at the Mount Sinai Baptist Church we can rejoice and repeat the words of Charles Wesley.

"Preserved by power Divine,
To full Salvation here;
Again in Jesus' name rejoice:
And in His sight appear.
What troubles have we seen,
What conflicts have we passed:
Fighting without fears within;
Since we assembled last."

THE OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Oak Grove Baptist Church was started in the home of Levy Hargrove, in September, 1900, as a result of a Sunday School, with Haynes Holloway, Superintendent, Daisy Bailey, Secretary, and Richard Brock, teacher.

Since the teacher is the most important officer in a school, Brother Brock, being well prepared for that job, made that much progress. From here the school moved into the Truereformer's Hall. At this time the Sunday School work was taken over by the young people.

In 1900, Rev. Bowe, Petersburg, who preached at the Second Baptist Church, Wakefield, preached for us in the Truereformer's Hall. When he died, Rev. Spencer Scott, Sr. came to us as pastor. He held a revival meeting in which many souls were converted.

In this number were: Richard Brock, William Cypress, Winfield Price, and Samuel Price. Sister Mary Price was mother of the church.

The baptizing took place at Mr. Johnnie Pond's Mill Pond the first Sunday in October, 1900. The first three persons named above were made deacons of Oak Grove Baptist Church. Of course they were ordained at a service later. Other persons who served as deacons of Oak Grove were: John Stringfield, Jordan Thomas, Naaman Baker, and Vandy Stringfield.

Rev. Scott was a faithful pastor and much beloved. At his death, Rev. J. M. Bray, Newport News, came to us. He was with us for a number of years. He was succeeded by Rev. W. F. Hill, Norfolk, who was with us for twenty-six years.

Rev. Gaskins, Franklin, came to us after Rev. Hill resigned. Rev. Gaskins left us in February, 1961, and the church called Rev. Sandie Williams, Richmond, who is our pastor at this time.

Sister Virgie Richardson was clerk of Oak Grove for more than seven years.

Sister Virginia McDaniels, who is mother of Oak Grove Church now, has been a member here for fifty-three years. The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen. 1. Thessalomans; V:28

Church history given by
Sister Virginia McDaniels, Age 73, 1968
Route 2, Box 44, Wakefield, Virginia

THE POPULAR LAWN BAPTIST CHURCH

The Popular Lawn Baptist Church is an outgrowth of the St. John's Baptist Church, Surry County, and it is located in the eastern part of the county near the James River and the Chippokes Plantation Farm.

Land Grant was made to John Blizzard who was its first Deacon and Trustee. Other Deacons who served with him were: James Spratley, Moses Wilson, Joshua Barbor, and Addison Dillard. Grant given 1887. Surry County Clerk's Office July 12, 1887.

Rev. William Haywood, who married Deacon John Blizzard's daughter, was the first pastor. Other pastors who served the church were: Rev. J. T. Burrell, Balden Bradby and Harvey Johnson. The first church was built under the Pastorate of Rev. Haywood and repairs were made on the church by the other two pastors. While Rev. Johnson was pastor the church had a fire which caused considerable damage, but was partly covered by insurance and donations from friends.

The Deacons of Popular Lawn Baptist Church at this time are: William Robertson, Pernell Mason, Herbert Ecmons, Wilson Clayborne, Frank Clayborne and John Laine, who is chairman of the Board.

Popular Lawn Baptist Church building is small it's true, and the members are few in number, but its Christian atmosphere is very keenly felt in the community.

No need to think I am going to hell
God's little army going to shine
Because the race of Adam fell
God's little army going to shine
God's little army
God's little army
God's little army going to shine
God's little army
God's little army
God's little army going to shine

ST. MARK CHURCH OF HOLINESS

The St. Mark Church of Holiness was organized on the mill yard of Surry Lumber Company in 1914. The church was organized by Elder Paul Young its founder.

The congregation moved into the Old Second Baptist Church building after the Second Baptist Church people united with the First Baptist Church.

After the death of Elder Young the first pastor Elder Garfield Ricks, Sedley, succeeded him and served us twenty years.

Land for church location was granted us through the kindness of Mr. Robert Faison who let us have the use of the land as long as it was used for Divine Services.

The church building here was erected under the pastorate of Elder Ricks and is located on the right hand side of Highway 31, west Dendron, from Dendron to Wakefield.

The following persons have served as Deacons and trustees of St. Mark: John Ricks, Zededee Ricks, Robert Blizzard, Albert Blizzard, Clarence Parson, Jason Young, Judge Bailey, Sr., Judge Bailey, Jr., Frank Blizzard, Shirley Blizzard, Lawrence Blizzard, Joseph Blizzard, Jacob Blizzard, Rockie Blizzard and Lewis Blizzard.

Elder Turner, Portsmouth, who followed Elder Ricks is our pastor at this time.

Elder Moses Brooks serves as assistant pastor.

"O for thousand tongues to sing,
My Great Redeemer's praise;
The glory of my God and King;
The triumph of the day."

ST. PAUL PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

The St. Paul Pentecostal Church was organized in the year 1911. The land for the church location was purchased from the Surry Lumber Company by Major Byrd, Johnnie Gilchrist, Albert Blizzard, Willis Blizzard, Rev. James Allen, and Joseph H. Jenkins, who served as first trustees and deacons.

They held services there for twenty-nine years until 1940. At that time the officers bought a tract of land on Highway 31 at Moorings, between Elberon and Surry Courthouse. This land was sold to us through the kindness of the white Methodist, who built a new church at Surry Courthouse.

The pastors of St. Paul's Church were: Rev. John F. Morrison, J. H. Allen, Clarence Parker, Albert Jones W. S. Winston, and William Riddick. Other deacons ordained since organization are: Royal Gilchrist, Floyd Gilchirst, Hudson Byrd, Homer Byrd, Bromo Parker, and Ruffin Price.

The following Bishops have presided over our church: Bishops Morrison, Dunn, and Meferson.

While our church believes in all of the Beatitudes, we believe most in the 6th and 7th, "Blessed are the Pure in Heart' 'and "Blessed are the Peace-makers." To be pure in heart and to be peace-makers in the world to come, first of all we must live so here. We are warned by the Savior to **Watch** and be **Ready**. Therefore, "Watch and Be Ready" is the motto of our church.

Fight, Fight, Brave all Evil,
Never run, neither lag behind:
If you win for God and Right;
Keep on the Firing Line.

THE UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

The original church was started in back of the present edifice in a bush arbor by Mr. Braxton Chappelle, a lay preacher. He later built a log church and called it Chappelle Church.

In 1881 a group of the deacons and trustees got together and decided to build a church. They got together and purchased some land from Mr. W. B. Clary and built the present edifice and named it the Union Baptist Church.

The first pastor was Rev. E. E. Royal. He served the church for twenty-five years.

The following pastors served in the following order from the above date to the present time: Rev. Reid, Rev. B. J. Richardson, Rev. James Kaiser, Rev. B. F. Gardner, Rev. M. B. Newsome, Rev. B. T. Starke, Rev. J. H. Jones, Rev. C. C. Dickerson, Rev. T. A. Lacy who is the present pastor.

Deacons who have passed: Deacons James Evans, James Flowers, Walter Gilchrist, George Ellis, Daniel Ellis, Armisted Jefferson, George Cotton, King S. Fitchett, Wilson Tyler, Arthur Parham, F. F. Graves (later ordained minister), Thomas Wooden, Jerry Henderson, Willie Hunt, John Walker, Oliver Graves, and Patrick Bailey.

Later deacons were: Deacons Henry Owens (deceased), and present deacons include: Deacons Hugh Moody, Chairman, J. E. Hunt, Clarence Wooden, Nathaniel Mason, Peter Rice, Benjamin Wooden, and Joseph Wooden.

Mr. Solon E. Wooden, Gilford District, Surry County, received 110 votes for member of the Board of Supervisors, in the November, 1963, National Election. He was born in Surry County, is one of the most prosperous farmers. He owns a nice farm of about 300 acres near Savedge, close to the Prince George County line. The place is known as the Broomfield Farm, formerly owned by the Hanson family. He and his brother, Lacy Wooden, purchased this farm about 25 years ago. Mr. Solon Wooden, 55, is married. They have no children.

His brother, Lacy, purchased another farm at Newvill, Prince George County, known as the Harrison Farm, about 200 acres more or less. Mr. Lacy Wooden is married and has two daughters, Gay and Fay. His wife, Mrs. Rebecca Johns Wooden is a teacher in J. E. J. Moore High School, Prince George County. Mrs. Wooden's name is mentioned in the history of Lebanon Baptist Church as she is a member and clerk of that church.

Mrs. Gladys W. Hardy, born and raised in Surry County near Scotland, is a High School graduate, 26 years old, won the office of the Justice of the Peace in write-ins in the National Election, November 1963. At one time she worked as a cashier at the Jamestown Festival Park. Her husband, Thomas S. Hardy, is a mechanic at the Newport News Shipyard. They have three girls and live between Bacon's Castle and the Isle of Wight County line.

Messrs. S. Dewey and Nolan Barham, known as the Barham brothers, are

carrying on the farm and merchandise business with success, left to them by their father the late S. D. Barham.

They have built a new brick store building and their business compares favorably with any retail small town or country store.

Mr. Nolan Barham is not married. Mr. S. D. Barham, Jr., is married and he and his wife, Mrs. Annie P. Barham have two children. Their son, D. J. Barham, taught in L. P. Jackson High School in Dendron and is now teaching in one of the High Schools in Richmond, Virginia. Their daughter, Genever, is Home Economic's Teacher in a High School in Powhatan County, Virginia.

All these people mentioned are leaders in the religious, civic, and educational organizations in the community.

Miss Gearldine Gibbs, also born in Surry County, is the first Home Economics teacher in the High School of Surry County. Miss Gibbs has done an excellent job and deserves much credit as a teacher.

This book cannot be completed without mentioning the name of Sister Calaham. She is one of the oldest citizens in the county and her work as a practical nurse has reached the homes of many people in Surry County. Her son, Mr. Natnaniel Ellis and his daughter, Miss Edith Ellis, are operating a spendid Funeral Home in Dendron, Surry County.

"Great men cultivate love, and only little men cherish a spirit of hatred."

Armstrong.

"I joined Union Baptist
For its the place I was taught to go,
I stay in Union Baptist
For it keeps me in the roe:
I grow in Union Baptist
And there I take my stand;
I live in Union Baptist
It is a real Union Band."

Mrs. Annie P. Barham, 1963